

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052838

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTHERN AFRICA

A. MOZAMBIQUE APPLIES ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA

MOZAMBIQUE'S PRESIDENT MACHEL ANNOUNCED MARCH 3 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD FULLY ENFORCE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN AND OAU RESOLUTIONS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY MAPUTO, MACHEL STOPPED SHORT OF DECLARING WAR ON THE SMITH GOVERNMENT BUT DID INDICATE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT PLANS TO SUPPORT GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN RHODESIA. MACHEL ALSO:

--CHARACTERIZED A LONG LIST OF ALLEGED RHODESIAN PROVO-
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CATIONS AS "AN ACT OF WAR;" AND

--APPEALED TO ALL "AFRICAN, PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIALIST STATES" FOR SUPPORT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: SANCTIONS WILL CAUSE MOZAMBIQUE MORE SERIOUS ECONOMIC DISRUPTION THAN RHODESIA. MOZAMBIQUE IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON RHODESIAN FOOD SHIPMENTS, AND BEIRA, THE

COUNTRY'S SECOND LARGEST PORT, EXISTS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON RHODESIAN TRADE.

B. UK WILL AVOID MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA

BRITISH UN MISSION OFFICERS INFORMED USUN THAT THE UK PLANS NO MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA. HOWEVER:

--IF PRESENCE OF CUBAN FORCES THERE CAUSES A GROUNDSWELL IN BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION, HMG MIGHT HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION.

--THE UK COULD PLAY AN INTERIM ROLE IN RHODESIA SHOULD CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED, IN WHICH CASE HMG WOULD SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT.

UKUN NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR RAMSBOTHAM PLANS TO DISCUSS UK THINKING ON RHODESIA IN HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY MARCH 4.

C. THE VIEW FROM CAPE TOWN

SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY FOURIE PROVIDED CHARGE EDMONSON WITH LITTLE HARD INFORMATION ON ANGOLA, BUT HE:

--EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT RHODESIA, NOTING THAT VORSTER HAD BEEN VERY FRANK IN LETTING SMITH KNOW HE SHOULD NOT COUNT ON SOUTH AFRICAN AID IF SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS FAIL;

--REPEATED SOUTH AFRICAN CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING FLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THE HARDENING OF THE MOZAMBIKAN ATTITUDE INFLUENCED FOURIE'S PESSIMISM ABOUT RHODESIA, BUT HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF HAVING EXAMINED ALTERNATIVES RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA MAY HAVE TO FACE IF THE SITUATION RAPIDLY WORSENS. MEANWHILE, THE NAMIBIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDS AS USUAL, WITH LITTLE INDICATION WHETHER IT MAY RECEIVE MORE OR LESS ATTENTION AS A RESULT OF INCREASING

UNCERTAINTIES IN ANGOLA AND RHODESIA. (CONFIDENTIAL) MAPU-
TO 211; USUN 823 AND CAPE TOWN 224 3/76.)

2. SWEETENING THE TURKS' TEA

AMBASSADOR MACOMBER REPORTS THAT WHENEVER HE ENCOUNTERS
FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, THE SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE SWEET-
ENERS FOR THE MARCH 24-25 TURKISH BASE TALKS INVARIABLY

ARISES. THE AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT HE BE INFORMED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE FULL PACKAGE OF SWEETENERS, NOTING
THAT:

--IF HE IS TOO UNRESPONSIVE TO CURRENT PROBING, THIS
MAY BE TAKEN BY CAGLAYANGIL AND MFA SECRETARY GENERAL
ELEKDAG AS A SIGN THAT A FINAL AGREEMENT WILL OFFER
TOO FEW INCENTIVES FOR THE TURKS.

--BY SAYING TOO LITTLE, WE RUN THE RISK OF ANOTHER
CANCELLATION OF CAGLAYANGIL'S TRIP. (CONFIDENTIAL)
ANKARA 1675 (EXDIS), 3/76

3. RELEASE OF CISCO TWO PROMISED WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL WINGS OF THE
POPULAR LIBERATION FRONT OF ERITREA TOLD EMBASSY KHARTOUM
MARCH 3 THAT THE CISCO TWO HOSTAGES, CAMPBELL AND HARREL,
WILL BE RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY IN ABOUT FIFTEEN DAYS.
THEY ADDED:

--THE RELEASE COMES AS A RESULT OF SUDANESE REQUESTS
AND HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS, NOT BECAUSE THE CAP-
TIVES NEED ANY SPECIAL MEDICAL ATTENTION.
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--THE MEN WILL BE HANDED OVER TO THE US EMBASSY IN
KHARTOUM.

--THE PLF "CANNOT BE BLAMED" FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO AMERI-
CAN CIVILIANS IN THE FUTURE IF US MILITARY AID TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA CONTINUES. (CONFIDENTIAL)
KHARTOUM 619 (EXDIS), 3/76.) KISSINGER

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